

REMARKS

The last Office Action of November 24, 2005 has been carefully considered. Reconsideration of the instant application in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-20 are pending in the application. Claims 4-5, 7-8, 10-15, 17, and 18 have been amended. Claims 1-3, 6, and 9 have been canceled. Claims 21-23 have been added. A total of 18 claims is now on file. The claim surcharge of \$1,000 for submitting five independent claims in excess of three is enclosed. No amendment to the specification has been made.

Claims 1-6, 9, 10, and 12 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Pat. No. 5,088,593 to Lewin.

It is noted with appreciation that claims 7, 8, 11, and 13-20 are indicated allowable if rewritten in independent form to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

In view of the Examiner's grounds for rejection, applicant has rewritten original claims 7, 8, 11, 13, 14, 15, 17, and 18, in independent form, as suggested by the Examiner, who indicated that originally filed claims 7, 8, 11, 13, 14, 15, 17, and 18 contained allowable subject matter. In addition, applicant has canceled original claims 1-3, 6, and 9. Claims 4, 5, 10, and 12 have been amended to change their dependency. Claims 21 to 23 have been added and contain subject matter set forth in original claims 10 and 12, respectively.

In view of the above presented remarks and amendments, it is respectfully submitted that all claims on file should be considered patentably differentiated over the art and should be allowed.

Reconsideration and allowance of the present application are respectfully requested.

Should the Examiner consider necessary or desirable any formal changes anywhere in the specification, claims and/or drawing, then it is respectfully requested that such changes be made by Examiner's Amendment, if the Examiner feels this would facilitate passage of the case to issuance. If the Examiner feels that it might be helpful in advancing this case by calling the undersigned, applicant would greatly appreciate such a telephone interview.

Respectfully submitted,

By: 

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